WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND IS DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. A network control system comprising:

a computer network;

5   an image forming apparatus connected to said computer network and configured to record an image on a recording paper, comprising,

an operational control device configured to produce a control instruction for adjusting features of 10   the image recorded on the recording paper,

a memory configured to hold display information representative of an image of said operational control device, and

a controller configured to provide said display 15   information in response to a request, and configured to operate said image forming apparatus based on said control instruction from said operational control device or other devices connected to said network;

a computer connected to said network, comprising,

20   a computer display, and

an input device configured to input data into the computer, said computer configured to select said

image forming apparatus for recording the image which is provided by said computer,

a request mechanism configured to request said display information from at least one of a server connected to said computer network and said image forming apparatus, and configured to display said display information on said computer display, and

a feature select mechanism that provides the control instruction to said image forming device corresponding to features of said display information selected at said computer.

2. A network control system according to claim 1, wherein said request mechanism is configured to display on said display a list identifying said image forming apparatus and other image forming apparatuses, said request mechanism comprising an apparatus display state mechanism configured to display on said computer display an operational state of said image forming apparatus and said other image forming apparatus at a same time.

3. A network control system according to claim 2, wherein said apparatus display state mechanism is configured to display at least one of a state of failure and a state of occupation corresponding to an operational status of said image forming apparatus.

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4. A network control system according to claim 1, wherein said request mechanism is configured to display said display information on said computer display as a graphical image that corresponds in appearance with a

5 layout of said operational control device.

5. A network control system according to claim 1, wherein said request mechanism is configured to display as a list input items of said display information.

6. A network control system according to claim 4,

10 wherein said request mechanism is configured to display an installation location of said image forming apparatus as part of said display information.

7. A network control system according to claim 5, wherein said request mechanism is configured to display

15 an installation location of said image forming apparatus as part of said display information.

8. A network control system comprising:

a computer network;

an image forming apparatus connected to said network

20 comprising,

recording means for recording an image on a recording paper, and

operating means for receiving and responding to a print instruction regarding an image forming condition

of the image to be recorded by said recording means, said

operating means having a displayed image;

a computer connected to said network, comprising,

a display that displays said displayed image,

5 and

inputting means for inputting said image

forming condition in the computer on the basis of said

displayed image; and

executing means for holding attributes including the

10 displayed image of operating means of said image forming

apparatus, for retrieving said image forming condition

from said inputting means of said computer, for

displayeing on said display an indication of said image

forming condition, and for sending the print instruction

15 including said image forming condition to the image

forming apparatus.

9. A network control system according to claim 8,

wherein:

said display being configured to display respective

20 indications of all of image forming apparatuses connected

to the network capable of executing said image forming

condition;

said inputting means for receiving an input signal selecting one of said respective image forming apparatuses identified on said display; and

said executing means for holding attribtutes of

5   respective of said all of image forming apparatuses connected to the network, and for sending said print instruction to the one of said respective image forming apparatuses selected by said inputting means.

10. A network control system according to claim 8,

10   wherein:

said executing means is for determining whether if image forming apparatrs is capable of executing each aspect of said image forming condition and for identifying at least one image forming apparatus capable

15   of executing a portion of said image forming condition; and

said display being configured to display an indication of said at least one of said respective image forming apparatuses capable of executing a portion of

20   said image forming condition.

11. A network control system according to claim 8, wherein:

said executing means is for determining whether no image forming apparatus is capable of executing each

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aspect of said image forming condition and for

identifying at least one of said respective image forming

apparatuses capable of executing a largest portion of

said image forming condition previously indicated as

5 being a high priority image forming condition feature;

and

    said display being configured to display an

indication of said at least one of said respective image

forming apparatuses capable of executing a largest

10 portion of said image forming condition previously

indicated as being the high priority image forming

condition feature.

    12. A network control system according to claim 8,

    wherein:

15   said executing means is for determining whether no

image forming apparatus is capable of executing each

aspect of said image forming condition;

    said display is configured to display as said

display image an image of said operating means; and

20   said inputting means for modifying said image

forming condition.

    13. A network control system according to claim 9,

    wherein:

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said executing means is for determining whether no image forming apparatus is capable of executing each aspect of said image forming condition;

said display being configured to display as said

5   display image an image of said operating means; and

said inputting means for modifying said image forming condition.

14.   A network control system according to claim 10, wherein:

10   said executing means is for determining whether no image forming apparatus is capable of executing each aspect of said image forming condition;

said display being configured to display as said display image an image of said operating means; and

15   said inputting means for modifying said image forming condition.

15.   A network control system according to claim 10, wherein said display being configured to display a model name and a satisfactory/unsatisfactory state of

20   said image forming condition.

16.   A method for controlling a network having a computer and an image forming apparatus connected thereto, comprising the steps of:

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selecting from a display a suitable image forming apparatus;

determining if a plurality of suitable image forming apparatuses are present;

5   displaying a list of input items of suitable image forming apparatuses if said plurality of image forming apparatuses are determined to be present and selecting one of the suitable image forming apparatuses as a finally selected image forming apparatus;

10   displaying an operation panel image of the finally selected image forming apparatus;

selecting an image forming condition at said computer based on said operation panel image; and

recording at said image forming apparatus an image
15 on recording paper based on said image forming condition selected at said computer.

17.   A method for controlling a network having a computer and a plurality of image forming apparatuses connected thereto, comprising the steps of:

20   displaying at said computer a plurality of input items corresponding to an image forming condition, said input items including a priority identifier;

selecting at said computer a portion of said plurality of input items;

determining whether at least one of said plurality

of image forming apparatuses satisfies all of the

plurality of input items and if so, selecting a final

image forming apparatus that satisfies all of the

5   plurality of input items;

displaying an indication of another plurality of

said image forming apparatuses having an attribute

corresponding to a priority identifier, if none of said

plurality of image forming apparatuses satisfy all of the

10   plurality of input items;

selecting as the final image forming apparatus one

of said another plurality of said image forming

apparatuses having an attribute corresponding to the

priority identifier when none of said plurality of image

15   forming apparatuses satisfy all of the plurality of input

items; and

recording at said final image forming apparatus an

image on recording paper based on said image forming

condition.

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